

**FEE TRANSACTION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND/OR MAINTENANCE**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A facility has been developed whereby an applicant (or his representative)
may initiate performance of an intellectual property service such as the making of a
maintenance fee, annuity, renewal, tax or other payments and transact the associated
fees coincident therewith. Such a facility has several advantages including the ability
to reduce float time. Outside the context of annuity-type payments, similar facilities
10 may be employed in conjunction with preparation, filing and prosecution support
tools to similarly transact fees associated with the performance of intellectual property
services at or about the time such intellectual property services are performed. An
intellectual property portal or hub is employed, which in some realizations is hosted
on a public, packet switched data network and communicates with both applicants (or
15 representatives) and associates. In some realizations, the intellectual property portal
facilitates selection, by applicants (or representatives) of particular jurisdictions and
associates based at least in part on fee quotations made in accordance with particulars
of an intellectual property filing and in accordance with fee structures of the particular
jurisdictions and foreign associates. In addition, some realizations of the intellectual
20 property filing portal facilitate registration of associate- and jurisdiction-specific
services and fee schedules.